

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

May 31 – June 6, 2015 [Issue 4]

Photo Credit: USFWS/Kaiti Titherington

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Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Kate Iaquinto

A Message from Monomoy

Hatching season continues here at Monomoy with the first American oystercatcher chicks making an appearance on South Monomoy Island on June 1st! As AMOY census came to an end, PIPL census began. And oh how crazy it has been! New PIPL and AMOY nests continue to be found throughout the Refuge as chicks scuttle around the beach.

As for the colony, staff continued to face fleet issues and was forced to temporarily close camp in order to resolve the problem. Regardless, roseate tern nests continue to be identified in the colony, with 11 confirmed nests as of 6/3!

2015 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

Double-crested cormorant
Great black-backed gull
Herring gull
Ring-billed gull
Iceland gull
Laughing gull
Bonaparte's gull
Great egret
Snowy egret
Killdeer
Willet
Great yellowlegs
Black-crowned night heron
Whimbrel
Barn swallow
Tree swallow
Least sandpiper
Ruddy turnstone
Killdeer
Black-bellied plover
Semipalmated plover
Semipalmated sandpiper
Short-billed dowitcher (6/6)

Sanderling
Dunlin
White-winged scoter
Black Scoter
Common eider
Red-breasted merganser
Blue-winged teal
American black duck
Mallard (6/6)
Northern Gannet
Horned lark
Saltmarsh sparrow
Magnolia warbler
Common yellowthroat (6/5)
American goldfinch
Gray catbird
Song Sparrow
Turkey vulture
Peregrine falcon
Bald eagle
Northern Harrier
Osprey
Red-winged blackbird

Bird ActivityPiping Plovers (PIPL)

Twenty-nine chicks spread between 10 active broods have been documented on South Monomoy Island as of 6/6!

Additionally, 6 new nests were recorded, bringing the current total to 25 active nests and 40 breeding pairs.

Five nests were lost this week due to a multitude of factors. One nest was lost to gull, one nest was lost to unknown predation, 2 lost to suspected coyote, and one nest was lost to unknown reasons. Another nest was partially predated and is down to 2 eggs.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

This week, the AMOYs took a hit to predation pressures on Minimoy and North Monomoy Island. On 5/31, 1 nest was lost to gull and 2 nests were lost to suspected coyote on North Monomoy Island. On 6/1, 4 nests were lost to coyote on Minimoy Island.

The AMOYs bounced back and on 6/1, the first nest hatched with 1 chick! Within the week the Refuge had 2 more nests hatch, both on South Monomoy Island, for a total of 3 active broods and 3 chicks seen on the island. More chicks are suspected based on parental behavior.

On 5/31, 2 new nests were found on North Monomoy Island. To date, there are a total of 2 active nests, 3 active broods, and 6 breeding pairs on South Monomoy Island, 1 active nest and 5 breeding pairs on Minimoy Island, and 3 active nests and 6 breeding pairs on North Monomoy Island.

Common Terns (COTE)

Due to fleet issues, camp was closed this week the morning of 6/3 and re-opened the morning of 6/5. On 6/5, signs of Great horned owl (GHOW) presence, tracks and pellet, were documented in the colony.

Efforts to trap banded COTEs in the colony began on 5 May, with 7 banded COTEs trapped so far. Additionally, colony staff trapped and banded 7 unbanded COTE adults. Staff plans to continue trapping until 50 banded COTEs are recaptured and recorded.

Lastly, staff is gearing up in anticipation of tern census next week!

Roseate Terns (ROST)

Five more ROST nests were located within the colony this week, bringing the Refuge total to

11 nests! This is up 3 nests from last years 8. On 5/5, efforts were made to trap nesting ROSTs. One adult was trapped and received PFR F19. Staff will continue these efforts in order to band unbanded adults and read banded ROSTs with MFRs.

So far, 5 PFRs have been read in the colony; F04, F05, F09, F10, and F11.

Least Terns (LETE)

Staff continues to see nests in previously mentioned areas on the Refuge.

Laughing Gulls (LAGU)

No new information to report.

Roseate habitat restoration Project

New new information to report.

Nanotag Project

Staff hopes to continue tagging plovers in the coming weeks.

Exclosure Study

Staff is anticipating the arrival of Abby Darrah, the lead researcher for the project, next week. Abby will assist Refuge staff in surveying and monitoring.

Salt Marsh Integrity

No new information to report.

HSC Tagging

On 6/1 and 6/3, Twenty-nine HSCs were tagged by Refuge staff and volunteers on Morris Island.

Current & Upcoming Events

AMOY Census Window

May 22-31

Plover Census Window

June 1-9

COTE/ROST Census

June 9-10

HSC Tagging

**June 2, 3, 16, 17
& July 2**

June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				